GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:204
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST TOURIST CENTRES
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for the development of Buddhist Tourist Centres in the country during Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon;

(c) the funds allocated to the respective States for the purpose during the said period, year-wise; and

(d) the specific proposal mooted in this regard for Tenth Plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) to (c): Department of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance every year to State Govts./UT Administrations in consultation with them for the projects relating to tourism development. During Ninth Plan an amount of Rs.372 crores was sanctionedto all the States in the country for development of tourism including Buddhist Tourist Centres. Besides, under the assistance OECF now known as Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) a project for an amount of Rs.251.05 crores as covering Sarnath Kushinagar, Piparhawa, Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, Vaishali in Bihar has been completed. Another project Ajanta-Ellora conservation and tourism development project involving Rs.127.50 crores has also been completed in Maharashtra state.

(d): During the Tenth Plan, Department of Tourism has proposed to develop a Buddhist Circuit covering Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi to international standards.